

Serial No.: 10/620,080

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

A method for data distribution, including distributing logical addresses among an initial set of devices so as to provide balanced access, and transferring the data to the devices in accordance with the logical addresses. [[]] If a device is added to the initial set, forming an extended set, the logical addresses are redistributed among the extended set so as to cause some logical addresses to be transferred from the devices in the initial set to the additional device. There is substantially no transfer of the logical addresses among the initial set. [[]] If a surplus device is removed from the initial set, forming a depleted set, the logical addresses of the surplus device are redistributed among the depleted set. There is substantially no transfer of the logical addresses among the depleted set. [[]] In both cases the balanced access is maintained.